

This week is National Police Week—a time we set aside to remember and honor the brave men and women protecting our streets and communities.

I would like to note that the names of nine New York police officers who are being added to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at a candlelight vigil on Thursday, May 13, 2004. These police officers fell as far back as 1906 and as recently as last year. They are:

1. Rodney J. Andrews, Detective, New York City, New York.
2. Michael F. Brophy, Sergeant, City of Utica, New York.
3. James Ivan Broughton, Police Officer, Middletown, New York.
4. Jeffry Todd Edelson, Sergeant, New York State Police.
5. Neil A. Forster, Police Officer, New York City, New York.
6. James Verneuil Nemorin, Detective, New York City, New York.
7. Fred Preston, Police Officer, Patchogue, New York.
8. Glenn Matthew Searles, Deputy Sheriff, Onondaga County, New York.
9. George A. Stillwell, Deputy Sheriff, Suffolk County, New York.

We here in Congress do many things to honor our police officers. Just this term, I authored legislation to name a Post Office in my district for Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown and Peter Paige. Twenty-three years ago an armed gang attempted to rob a Brinks Armored Truck in the middle of the day at a crowded mall and these three brave souls fell in the line of duty. But, Congress has another important job to do when honoring our "finest." We have a responsibility to provide funding to help our police—and in fact all first responders—do their jobs.

The President shares this responsibility. Yet, his budget for fiscal year 2005 is woefully inadequate. A few simple figures:

Provides only \$97 million for COPS, a \$659 million cut below the 2004 enacted level—and in FY04 COPS was funded at \$748 million;

Totally eliminates the Byrne formula and discretionary grants, yet in FY04 formula grants were funded at \$495 million and discretionary grants were funded at \$208 million; and

Also it eliminates Local Law Enforcement Block Grant grants, which were funded at \$223 million in FY04.

As a New Yorker who was watching from my home in the Bronx on September 11—watching as the greatest attack on U.S. civilians was ever undertaken—I am greatly disappointed by the President's poor request. As a New Yorker who watched the greatest act of heroism I can remember—hundreds of firefighters and police officers running into the World Trade Center as they burned, I am saddened by the President's weak request. As a New Yorker who watched in abject horror as the towers fell, killing thousands, including hundreds of firefighters and police, I am angered by the President's insufficient request.

Later, I learned that a police helicopter was circling the Trade Center site and could tell the second tower would soon fall. Yet, the police could not warn the firefighters inside because they used a different radio system. I pledged to myself and my constituents that I would do everything I could to make sure this never happened again. Thus, I joined my colleagues, Mr. FOSSELLA and Mr. STUPAK, in au-

thoring legislation to provide funding to our states and localities to purchase interoperable radio equipment. H.R. 3370, the Public Safety Interoperability Implementation Act would use proceeds from spectrum auctions to help our police and firefighters and EMS personnel.

I urge my other colleagues to join us in this effort.

I also urge my colleagues to join me and the other speakers here tonight in fighting for the funding needed to make our districts safer.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR.
LARRY PICKENS

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our guest chaplain, Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, a well-known pastor in my Congressional district. Currently senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Elgin, Illinois, Rev. Pickens recently was named top staff executive of the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Affairs. In this role, Rev. Pickens will direct the Methodists' relations with other churches and work to build unity among the denomination's 8.3 million members.

A former pastor in inner-city congregations in Chicago for fifteen years, Rev. Pickens has also served as a delegate to a "people-to-people" seminar on the legal system of South Africa. Within the church, Rev. Pickens has spent the last four years as a member of the Judicial Council, giving him a better understanding of church governance.

Admitted to both the Illinois Bar and the South Carolina Bar, Rev. Pickens holds a J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law. He also holds degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and North Park University.

We are honored to have Rev. Pickens with us this morning. His involvement in his community and his new role in seeking unity among all denominations underscores his devotion to doing God's work for the betterment of humanity.

Thank you, Rev. Pickens, for being here this morning to open the United States House of Representatives and for your continued service and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHAWN
MITCHELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Shawn Mitchell and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to the State of Colorado as a member of the Colorado General Assembly. As a three-term member of the State House of Representatives, he will be remembered as a legislator with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in the community. As he moves on in his ca-

reer, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are eternally grateful for all that he has accomplished in his tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives.

One of Colorado's top lawyers, Shawn was elected to serve the people of District 33, representing parts of Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, and Weld Counties in 1998. During this last term he chaired the Information and Technology Committee, and served on the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. While serving as a legislator, Shawn has maintained a private law practice in the Denver area, and has previously served as Special Counsel to former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton, now our Secretary of the Interior. His civic involvement includes serving as president of the Colorado Chapter of the Federalist Society, and three years on the Denver Rocky Mountain News Board of Editorial Contributors.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that State Representative Shawn Mitchell has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his district and the people of Colorado in the Colorado General Assembly. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Shawn, and I wish you and your wife Yvette all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT
STEPHENS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. E. Robert "Bob" Stephens for volunteering his services for 31 years to the East Norriton Fire Engine Company.

Bob Stephens is a citizen who has dedicated much of his life to helping people. He has done so through his extensive volunteer work at the East Norriton Fire Company. Bob joined the East Norriton Fire Company in 1973 and is still an active member today.

One year after Bob joined the East Norriton Fire Engine Company, he was put on the Drivers List. In 1976, he was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer and held that position until 1986. Later that same year, Bob was again promoted, this time as Chief Engineer of the East Norriton Fire Engine Company. In 1980, eight years after he joined the East Norriton Fire Engine Company, Bob was awarded Life Membership.

During his service, Bob made many significant contributions to the Fire Company and to the community. Bob attended as many county and state fire schools as he could in order to learn as much as possible about his volunteer work. As a ranking member of the Fire Company, Bob served on many different committees where he was able to use the expertise gained in the fire schools to better the Fire Company in which he volunteered. Bob actively served on the banquet, building, truck, and uniform committees and later became a member of the East Norriton Fire Engine Company's Board of Trustees.

Bob has also been the recipient of numerous awards from the East Norriton Fire Engine Company. Bob was the three-time recipient of